



PATENT

Docket No. 8160.16016-CIP 2 US

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Aaron Strand et al.

Group Art Unit: 3727

Serial No.: 09/751,290

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: 28 December 2000

For: A Resealable Bag For Filling With Food Product(s) and Method

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF FILING OR BEFORE MAILING OF FIRST OFFICE ACTION (37 CFR 1.97(b))

NOTE: "An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed: (1) within three months of the filing date of a national application; (2) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in S 1.491 in an international application; or (3) before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last." 37 CFR 1.97(b).

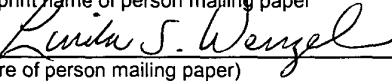
NOTE: The "filing date of a national application" under 37 CFR 1.97(b) has two possible meanings. Where the filing is a direct one to the United States Patent & Trademark Office, the filing is defined in 37 CFR 1.53(b) as "the date on which: (1) A specification containing a description pursuant to S 1.71 and at least one claim pursuant to S 1.75, and (2) any drawing required by S 1.81(a), are filed in the Patent and Trademark Office in the name of the actual inventor or inventors as required by S 1.41." 37 CFR 1.97(b)(1). On the other hand, an international application that enters the national stage occurs when the applicant has filed the documents and fees required by 35 U.S.C. S 371(c) within the periods set forth in S 1.494 or S 1.495. 35 U.S.C. S 371(c) requires the filing of the following: (1) the national fee; (2) a copy of the international application, unless already sent by the International Bureau, and an English translation if filed in another language; (3) amendments under PCT Article 19, with a translation into English if made in another language; (4) an oath or declaration; and (5) a translation into English of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report, if such annexes were made in another language. 37 CFR 1.97(b)(2).

IDENTIFICATION OF TIME OF FILING THE ACCOMPANYING INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being filed WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF THE FILING DATE OF THE APPLICATION OR DATE OF ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL STAGE OF AN INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION OR BEFORE THE MAILING DATE OF A FIRST OFFICE ACTION ON THE MERITS, WHICHEVER EVENT OCCURS LAST. 37 CFR 1.97(b).

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8(a)) or (37 CFR 1.10)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United State Postal Service on the date shown below as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Linda S. Wenzel
Type or print name of person mailing paper

(Signature of person mailing paper)

Date: 19 March 2003



NOTE "NO CERTIFICATION OR FEE IS DUE WHEN THE FILING IS MADE WITHIN THE ABOVE TIME PERIOD. IT IS ADVISABLE TO ENSURE THAT NO OFFICE ACTION HAS BEEN MAILED IF THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IS DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THREE MONTHS FROM FILING."

NOTE: "An information disclosure statement will be considered to have been filed on the day it was received in the Office, or on an earlier date of a mailing if accompanied by a properly executed certificate of mailing under 37 CFR 1.8, or Express Mail certificate under 37 CFR 1.10. An Office action is mailed on the date indicated in the Office action." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

NOTE: "The term 'national application' includes continuing applications (continuations, divisions, continuations-in-part) so three-months will be measured from the actual filing date of an application as opposed [sic] to the effective date of a continuing application." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

NOTE: "An action on the merits means an action which treats the patentability of the claims in an application, as opposed to only formal or procedural requirements. An action on the merits would, for example, contain a rejection or indication of allowability of a claim or claims rather than just a restriction requirements (37 CFR 1.142) or just a requirement for additional fees to have a claim considered (37 CFR 1.16(d)). Thus, if an application was filed on Jan. 1 and the first Office action on the merits was not mailed until six months later on July 1, the examiner would be required to consider any proper information disclosure statement filed prior to July 1." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

WARNING: "A PETITION FOR SUSPENSION OF ACTION TO ALLOW APPLICANT TIME TO SUBMIT AN INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WILL BE DENIED AS FAILING TO PRESENT GOOD AND SUFFICIENT REASONS, SINCE 37 CFR 1.97 PROVIDES ADEQUATE RECOURSE FOR THE TIMELY SUBMISSION OF PRIOR ART FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE EXAMINER." NOTICE OF JULY 6, 1992 (1141 O.G. 63).

The submission of any document herewith is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

Should any fees be necessary in connection with this submission, please charge same to Account No. 06-2360.

Date 19 March 2003

Reg. No. 46,436

Telephone No.: (262) 783-1300

Signature of Attorney of Record

Laura A. Dable

Type or Print Name of Attorney of Record

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LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	ATTY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
	8160.16016-CIP 2 US	
	09/751,290	
APPLICANT		
Aaron Strand et al.		
FILING DATE	GROUP	
28 December 2000		3727



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If Appropriate)
	6,390,676	5/21/2002	Colombo et al.			
	2002/0172435	11/21/2002	Colombo et al.			
	2002/0068668	6/6/2002	Chow et al.			
	5,048,692	9/17/1991	Handler et al.			
	6,327,754	12/11/2001	Belmont et al.			
	6,327,837	12/11/2001	Van Erden			RECEIVED
	6,131,369	10/17/2000	Ausnit			MAR 25 2003
	2002/0196987	12/26/2002	Tilman et al.			TECHNOLOGY CENTER 13700
	5,412,924	5/9/1995	Ausnit			
	5,400,568	3/28/1995	Kanemitsu et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No
	WO 98/45180	10/15/1998	PCT			
	WO 98/18679	5/7/1998	PCT			
	WO 84/02896	8/2/1984	PCT			
	WO 91/17086	11/14/1991	PCT			
	WO 98/03328	1/29/1998	PCT			

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		Article 1/5 - "Senior Consumers Welcome Easy-off Lids" Food Technol. vol. 53, no. 5, May 1999, pp. 80, 85
		Article 2/5 - "Safeway Pioneers Recloseable Pouch Design for its Private Label Frozen Food Line" Packag. Strategies, vol. 11, no. 11, 15 June 1993, pp. 1-2
		Article 3/5 - "Hiland Bags a Winner" Packag. Dig., vol. 29, no. 12, Nov. 1992, p. 112

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this of with next communication to applicant.

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No
		WO 98/08739	3/5/1998	PCT			
		WO 98/49062	11/5/1998	PCT			
		WO 98/57862	12/23/1998	PCT			
		2 744 700	8/14/1997	France			
		2 546 481	11/30/1984	France			

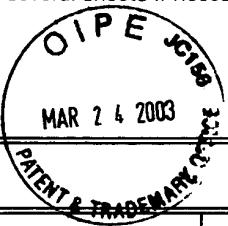
OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		Article 4/5 - "Resealable Package Helps Win New Customers" Packag. (U.S.) vol. 36, no. 6, May 1991, p. 31
		Article 5/5 - "Pita Sales Zip Along" Packag. Dig., vol. 27, no. 10, Sept. 1990, pp. 42, 46

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No
	0 951 989	10/27/1999	EP			
	0 547 966	6/23/1993	EP			
	0 450 741	10/9/1991	EP			
	299 07 977	8/19/1999	DE			
	581864	9/10/1958	IT			

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		Packaging Digest, March 1999 - "Flexible Muscle With Flair" Cover, pgs. 3, 46-48, 50-52, 56
		Packaging News, October 1989 - "Tamper Evident Bag Resealed by "Zipper" Cover, pg. 84

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